

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

STEPHANIE BEKENDAM,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) No. 3:21-CV-577-M-BH
STATE OF TEXAS, et al.,)
Defendants.) Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge¹

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the relevant filings and applicable law, the case should be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court.

I. BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2021, the plaintiff filed this action against several defendants. (*See* doc. 3.) By *Notice of Deficiency and Order* dated March 15, 2021, she was notified that she had not paid the filing fee or submitted an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP). (*See* doc. 7.) The order specifically advised the plaintiff that she must either pay the filing fee or file an IFP application within fourteen days, and that a failure to do so could result in the dismissal of the case. *Id.* Attached to the order was an IFP application. *See id.* Well more than fourteen days from the date of the order have passed, but the plaintiff has not either paid the filing fee or filed an IFP application, and she has not filed anything else in this case.

II. INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court. *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988) (§ 1983 prisoner action). This authority flows from a court's inherent

¹ By *Special Order No. 3-251*, this *pro se* case has been automatically referred for full case management.

power to control its docket, prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases, and avoid congested court calendars. *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962). The plaintiff failed to comply with the order that she either pay the filing fee or submit an IFP application despite a warning that failure to do so could result in dismissal of the case. Because she failed to follow a court order or otherwise show that she intends to proceed with this case, it should be dismissed under Rule 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders.

III. RECOMMENDATION

This case should be dismissed without prejudice under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court, unless the plaintiff either pays the filing fee or submits a completed application to proceed *in forma pauperis* within the time for objecting to this recommendation, or some other deadline set by the court.

SO RECOMMENDED on this 24th day of May, 2021.



IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions, and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE